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Elizabeth M. Garcia, Esquire

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October 23, 2017

File No. 13672-0017

ELECTRONICALLY FILED

Clerk
United States District Court
Mitchell H. Cohen Bldg. & U.S. Courthouse
4th & Cooper Streets, Room 1050
Camden, New Jersey 08101

Re: <u>Harris, Barbara v Rehab Clinics (SPT), et al</u>
Docket No. BUR-L-1836-17

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find the following documents on behalf of the Defendants, The Select Medical Corporation, Novacare Rehabilitation and Kelly Kover, pursuant to the above-referenced matter.

- 1. Civil Cover Sheet;
- 2. Notice of Removal;
- 3. Notice of Filing of Removal;
- 4. Certification of Service and Proof of Mailing; and
- 5. Filing fee (credit card).

By copy of this letter, I am serving copies of the enclosed to all parties.

Respectfully submitted,

BY: /s/ Elizabeth M. Garcia
ELIZABETH M. GARCIA

EMG/lms

Enclosures

cc:

John F. Pilles, Jr., Esquire

Civil Processing Clerk, Burlington County Superior Court (via regular mail)

Melinda Shenck, Litigation Coordinator

4827-2495-4450, v. 1

COUNSEL WHEN IT MATTERS.5M

Mount Laurel, New Jersey | Hamilton, New Jersey | Atlantic City, New Jersey

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

| purpose of initiating the civil de | JCKEL SHEEL, (SEE INSTRUC. | HOND ON NEXT FAGE O | F IMS FC | | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------|---|---|--|--|
| I. (a) PLAINTIFFS | | | | DEFENDANTS | | | |
| Barbara A. Harris | | | | The Select Medical Corporation, Novacare Rehabilitation and Kelly Kover | | | |
| (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Burlington (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) | | | | County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Burlington | | | |
| | | | | (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED. | | | |
| | | | | THE TRACT | OF LAND INVOLVED. | THE BOOM HOM OF | |
| (c) Attorneys (Firm Name | Address and Telephone Number | » } | | Attorneys (If Known) | | | |
| (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) John F. Pilles, Jr., Esquire | | | | Elizabeth M. Garcia, Esquire of Parker McCay P.A. | | | |
| Lumberton Holly Office Center 774 Eayrestown Road, Suite L1, Lumberton, NJ 08048 | | | | 9000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 300 PO Box 5054, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054-5054 | | | |
| 774 Eayrestown Road, S | uite L1, Lumberton, N | J 08048 | | PU BOX 5054, MOL | uni Laurei, NJ 00054-50 | U04 / | |
| II. BASIS OF JURISDI | CTION (Place an "X" in O | ne Box Only) | III. CI | TIZENSHIP OF P (For Diversity Cases Only) | RINCIPAL PARTIES | (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant) | |
| ☐ 1 U.S. Government | | | CO. | | F DEF 1 □ 1 Incorporated or P | PTF DEF | |
| Plaintiff | (U.S. Government I | voi a Party) | Citiz | en of This State | 1 ☐ 1 Incorporated or P of Business In | | |
| ☐ 2 U.S. Government | 🗇 4 Diversity | | Citiz | en of Another State | 2 | Principal Place | |
| Defendant | | ip of Parties in Item III) | | | of Business In | | |
| | | | | | 3 🗇 3 Foreign Nation | □ 6 □ 6 | |
| IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions. | | | | | | | |
| CONTRACT | | RTS | P | ORFEITURE/PENALTY | BANKRUPTCY | OTHER STATUTES | |
| ☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine | PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane | PERSONAL INJUR 365 Personal Injury. | | 25 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 | ☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 ☐ 423 Withdrawal | ☐ 375 False Claims Act ☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC | |
| 130 Miller Act | 315 Airplane Product | Product Liability | | 90 Other | 28 USC 157 | 3729(a)) | |
| 140 Negotiable Instrument | Liability | ☐ 367 Health Care/ | | | TO ARENAL BUCKER | ☐ 400 State Reapportionment ☐ 410 Antitrust | |
| 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment | 320 Assault, Libel & Slander | Pharmaceutical Personal Injury | | | PROPERTY RIGHTS ☐ 820 Copyrights | 410 Antidust 430 Banks and Banking | |
| 151 Medicare Act | ☐ 330 Federal Employers' | Product Liability | . | | 🗇 830 Patent | 1 450 Commerce | |
| ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans | Liability 340 Marine | 368 Asbestos Persona Injury Product | 4 | | ☐ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application | ☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and | |
| (Excludes Veterans) | 345 Marine Product | Liability | | | ☐ 840 Trademark | Corrupt Organizations | |
| ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment | Liability 350 Motor Vehicle | PERSONAL PROPEI 370 Other Fraud | | LABOR 10 Fair Labor Standards | SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff) | 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV | |
| of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits | 355 Motor Vehicle | 371 Truth in Lending | | Act | 3 862 Black Lung (923) | 850 Securities/Commodities/ | |
| ☐ 190 Other Contract | Product Liability | ☐ 380 Other Personal | | 20 Labor/Management | ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) | Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions | |
| ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise | 360 Other Personal Injury | Property Damage 385 Property Damage | | Relations 40 Railway Labor Act | ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI ☐ 865 RSI (405(g)) | 891 Agricultural Acts | |
| | 362 Personal Injury - | Product Liability | | 51 Family and Medical | | ☐ 893 Environmental Matters ☐ 895 Freedom of Information | |
| REAL PROPERTY | Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS | PRISONER PETITIO | NS 0 7 | Leave Act 90 Other Labor Litigation | FEDERAL TAX SUITS | | |
| ☐ 210 Land Condemnation | ☐ 440 Other Civil Rights | Habeas Corpus: | □ 7º | 91 Employee Retirement | ☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff | 3 896 Arbitration | |
| ☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment | ☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment | ☐ 463 Alien Detainee ☐ 510 Motions to Vacat | e l | Income Security Act | or Defendant) ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party | ☐ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of | |
| 240 Torts to Land | 443 Housing/ | Sentence | ~ | | 26 USC 7609 | Agency Decision | |
| ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property | Accommodations 1 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - | 530 General 535 Death Penalty | | IMMIGRATION | 4 | ☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes | |
| 290 All Oulei Real Property | Employment | Other: | ☐ 40 | 62 Naturalization Application | i | Build Statistics | |
| | X 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other | 540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights | her 🗇 44 | 65 Other Immigration Actions | | | |
| | ☐ 448 Education | 555 Prison Condition | | Actions | | 1 | |
| | | 560 Civil Detainee - | - 1 | | | 1 | |
| | | Conditions of Confinement | | | | | |
| V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" is | n One Box Only) | | , ' | | | | |
| ☐ 1 Original | moved from | Remanded from Appellate Court | | pened Anothe | erred from | on - Litigation - | |
| | Cite the U.S. Civil Sta | stute under which you a | re filino / | (specify) Do not cite jurisdictional sta | | Direct File | |
| VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO | 42 U.S.C. § 1210 | 1, et seg and the N | Vew Jer | sey Law Against Disc | crimination ("L.A.D."), N | .J.S.A. 10:5-1, et seq | |
| VI. CAUSE OF ACTIC | Brief description of ca | | | | • | | |
| Alleged discrimination claims VII. REQUESTED IN ☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if d | | | | | | y if demanded in complaint: | |
| COMPLAINT: UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. | | | | JURY DEMAND: X Yes \(\text{Ino}\) No | | | |
| VIII. RELATED CASI | | | | | | | |
| IF ANY | (See instructions): | TUDGE The Hono | rable Si | usan A. Clavpoole JS | SC DOCKET NUMBER B | BUR-L-1836-17 | |
| DATE | | SIGNATURE OF AT | | | | | |
| 10/23/2017 | | s/ Elizabeth M | | | | | |
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | <u> </u> | 3, <u>Elizaboti ivi</u> | | -,, | | | |
| RECEIPT # AM | MOUNT | APPLYING IFP | | JUDGE | MAG. JU | DGE . | |

File No. 13672-0017

Law Offices
PARKER McCAY P.A.
Elizabeth E. Garcia, Esquire
ID No. 015562000
9000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 300
P.O. Box 5054
Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054-5054
(856) 596-8900

Attorneys for Defendants, The Select Medical Corporation, Novacare Rehabilitation and Kelly Kover

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

BARBARA A. HARRIS,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE SELECT MEDICAL CORPORATION; NOVACARE REHABILITATION; KELLY KOVER, JOHN DOE AND RICHARD DOE

Defendant(s).

CIVIL ACTION NO.

CIVIL ACTION

NOTICE OF REMOVAL (FEDERAL QUESTION)

(FORMALLY: SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY LAW DIVISION BURLINGTON COUNTY DOCKET NO. BUR-L-1836-17)

Defendants, The Select Medical Corporation, Novacare Rehabilitation and Kelly Kover (hereinafter "Defendants"), hereby give notice to the Court, pursuant to 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1441, of the removal of this action which has been pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Burlington County, under Docket No. BUR-L-1836-17. The removal to this Court, Camden Vicinage, is proper for the reasons set forth below:

1. Defendants exercise their rights pursuant to 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1441 to remove this civil action to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.

- Removal is proper because Plaintiff, Barbara A. Harris, alleges violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act (hereinafter "ADA"), 42 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 12101, et seq.
- On or about September 18, 2017, Plaintiff commenced the above-captioned action by filing a civil Complaint in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Burlington County, Docket No. BUR-L-1836-17.
- 3. Defendants, The Select Medical Corporation and Novacare Rehabilitation were served on or about October 2, 2017, and Defendant, Kelly Kover was served on or about October 5, 2017.
- 4. A copy of the Complaint is annexed hereto as Exhibit A.
- 5. This Notice of Removal is timely pursuant to 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1446(b) because it is filed "within thirty days after receipt by the defendant, through service or otherwise, of a copy of the initial pleading setting forth the claim for relief upon which such action or proceeding is based."
- 6. Plaintiff's claims or causes of action are ones over which this Court has original jurisdiction under the provisions of 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1331 and §1343(a)(3), and is one which may be removed to this Court by Defendants pursuant to the provisions of 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1441 in that Plaintiff's Complaint is based, in part, on allegations that Defendants violated the ADA, 42 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 12101, et seq.
- 7. The remaining Counts alleged under State law, specifically, the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination Act, are sufficiently related to ADA discrimination claims that they form part of the same case or controversy within the meaning of 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1367(a) and, therefore, to the extent that

LAW OFFICE PARKER McCAY P.A. any of these claims might sound of State law, this Court has supplemental

These causes of actions are properly jurisdiction over those claims.

removable to this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1441(a), §1367(a), and §1446.

See, Carnegie-Mellon University v. Cohill, 484 U.S. 343, 350, 108 S. Ct. 614,

98 L. Ed 2d 720 (1988) (supplemental jurisdiction enables Federal Courts to

hear State law claims over which there is no independent basis for

jurisdiction).

8. Upon the filing of this Notice of Removal, Defendants shall give written

notice thereof to the Plaintiff's counsel, and Defendants shall file copies of

said Notice and Notice of Filing of Removal, with the Superior Court of New

Jersey, Law Division, Burlington County. A copy of the Notice of Filing of

Removal is annexed hereto as Exhibit B.

9. By filing this Notice, Defendants do not waive any defenses that may be

available to them.

WHEREAS, the Defendants, The Select Medical Corporation, Novacare

Rehabilitation and Kelly Kover, remove the above-captioned action now pending against

them in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Burlington County, to the United

States District Court for the District of New Jersey, wherein it shall proceed as an action

originally commenced therein.

PARKER McCAY P.A.

Attorneys for Defendants, The Select Medical Corporation, Novacare Rehabilitation and

Kelly Kover

By: & Elizabeth M. García

ELIZABETH M. GARCIA, ESQUIRE

LAW OFFICE PARKER McCAY P.A.

Dated: October 23, 2017

3

Exhibit "A"

Duly Served
10/1 20 17

THE STANFIELD
SHERIFF

Note: John Julian Sold With Spec. 1991 10 serve this Write with and seal with any 20 H and 20

JOHN F. PILLES, JR., ESQ. Attorney I.D. No. 014801979 Lumberton Holly Office Center 774 Eayrestown Road, Suite L1 Lumberton, New Jersey 08048 Telephone: (609) 267-7711 Telefacsimile: (609) 267-9303

Attorney for Plaintiff

201 (Control 1993)

BARBARA A. HARRIS.

Plaintiffs.

VS.

THE SELECT MEDICAL CORPORATION, a Delaware Corporation; NovaCare REHABILITATION, a part of the Select Medical : Outpatient Division; KELLY COVER, Regional Director; and JOHN DOE and RICHARD ROE, currently : unknown representatives/agents for NovaCare Rehabilitation,

Defendants.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

LAW DIVISION

BURLINGTON COUNTY

DOCKET NO. BUR-L-1836-17

CIVIL ACTION

SUMMONS

The State of New Jersey to the above named Defendant(s):

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED in a Civil Action in the Superior Court of New Jersey, instituted by the above named Plaintiff(s), and required to serve upon the attorney(s) for the Plaintiff(s), whose name and office address appears above, an Answer to the annexed Complaint within thirty-five (35) days after the Service of the Summons and Complaint upon you, exclusive of the day of Service. If you fail to Answer, Judgment by Default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. You shall promptly file your Answer and Proof of Service thereof in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court at the Burlington County Vicinage located at 49 Rancocas Road. Mount Holly, NJ (08060), in accordance with the rules of Civil Practice and procedure. A filing fee payable to the Clerk of the Superior Court and a completed Case Information Statement (available from the deputy clerk of the Superior Court) must accompany your answer when it is filed. You must also

answer when it is filed. You must also send a copy of your answer or motion to plaintiffs attorney whose name and address appear above, or to plaintiff, if no attorney is named above. A telephone call will not protect your rights; you must file and serve a written answer or motion (with fee of \$175.00 and completed Case Information Statement) if you want the court to hear your defense.

If you can not afford to pay an attorney, call a legal services office. An individual not eligible for free legal assistance may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling a County lawyer referral service. These numbers may be listed in the yellow pages of your phone book or may be obtained by calling the Legal Services of New Jersey Statewide Hotline at 1-888-LSNJ-LAW (1-888-576-5529).. The phone numbers for the County in which this action is pending are: Lawyer Referral Service, (609) 261-4862, Legal Services Office, (609) 261-1088.

Dated: August 21, 2017

Name of defendant to be served:

Address for Service:

Michelle M. Smith Isl

Michelle M. Smith, Clerk of the Superior Court

Select Medical Corporation c/o NocaCare Rehabilitation Center Victoria Milano, Center Manager

1805 Route 206 Southampton, New Jersey 08088

Simon Simon

JOHN F. PILLES, JR., ESQ. Attorney I.D. No. 014801979 Lumberton Holly Office Center 774 Eayrestown Road, Suite L1 Lumberton, New Jersey 08048 Telephone: (609) 267-7711

Telefacsimile: (609) 267-9303 Attorney for Plaintiff

2011 (En) in P 19 104

BARBARA A. HARRIS,

VS.

Plaintiffs,

THE SELECT MEDICAL CORPORATION, a Delaware Corporation; NovaCare

REHABILITATION, a part of the Select Medical Outpatient Division; KELLY COVER, Regional Director; and JOHN DOE and RICHARD ROE, currently

unknown representatives/agents for

NovaCare Rehabilitation,

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

LAW DIVISION

BURLINGTON COUNTY

DOCKET NO. BUR- L-1836-17

CIVIL ACTION

SUMMONS

Defendants.

The State of New Jersey to the above named Defendant(s):

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send a copy of your answer or motion to plaintiffs attorney whose name and address appear above, or to plaintiff, if no attorney is named above. A telephone call will not protect your rights; you must file and serve a written answer or motion (with fee of \$175.00 and completed Case Information Statement) if you want the court to hear your defense.

If you can not afford to pay an attorney, call a legal services office. An individual not eligible for free legal assistance may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling a County lawyer referral service. These numbers may be listed in the yellow pages of your phone book or may be obtained by calling the Legal Services of New Jersey Statewide Hotline at 1-888-LSNJ-LAW (1-888-576-5529). The phone numbers for the County in which this action is pending are: Lawyer Referral Service, (609) 261-4862, Legal Services Office, (609) 261-1088.

Dated: August 21, 2017

Michelle M. Smith Isl

Michelle M. Smith, Clerk of the Superior Court

Name of defendant to be served:

Kelly Kover, Reginal Director Select Medical Corporation

c/o Novacare Rehabilitation Center

Address for Service:

Larchmont Commons Shopping Center 3115 Route 38, Suite 300 Mt. Laurel, New Jersey 08088

ATLAN Resecting cv-08923-RBK-AMD Document 1 Eiled 10/23/17 Page 12 of 23 PageID: 12

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court 1201 Bacharach Blvd. Atlantic City, N.J. 08401 LAWYER REFERRAL 609-345-3444 LEGAL SERVICES 609-348-4200

BERGEN COUNTY:

Clerk Superior Court Justice Center, 10 Main St. Room 115 Hackensack, NJ 07601-0769 LAWYER REFERRAL 201-488-0044 LEGAL SERVICES 201-487-2166

BURLINGTON COUNTY: Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court 49 Rancocas Road Mt. Holly, NJ 08060 LAWYER REFERRAL 609-261-4862 LEGAL SERVICES 800-496-4570

CAMDEN COUNTY:

Clerk Superior Court, Civil 101 S. Fifth St, Suite 150 Camden, NJ 08103 LAWYER REFERRAL 856-964-4520 LEGAL SERVICES 856-964-2010

CAPE MAY COUNTY:

Central Processing Office 9 N. Main St. Cape May Court House, NJ 08210 LAWYER REFERRAL 609-463-0313 LEGAL SERVICES 609-465-3001

CUMBERLAND COUNTY:

Clerk Superior Court, Civil Case Management P.O. Box 10 Bridgeton, N.J. 08302 LAWYER REFERRAL 856-696-5550 LEGAL SERVICES 856-691-0494

MONMOUTH COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court 71 Monument Park, P.O. Box 1262 Freehold, NJ 07728-1262 Lawyer Referral 732-431-5544 Legal Services 732-866-0020

MORRIS COUNTY:
Clerk Superior Court, Civil Division
P.O. Box 910, Washington & Court Sts.
Morristown, NJ 07960-0910
LAWYER REFERRAL 973-267-5882
LEGAL SERVICES 073-285-6911 LEGAL SERVICES 973-285-6911

OCEAN COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court 118 Washington St Rm 121, P.O. Box 2191 Toms River, NJ 08754 LAWYER REFERRAL 732-240-3666 LEGAL SERVICES 732-341-2727

PASSAIC COUNTY:

Clerk Superior Court, Civil Division 77 Hamilton St. Paterson, NJ 07505 LAWYER REFERRAL 973-278-9223 LEGAL SERVICES 973-345-7171

SALEM COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court 92 Market Street Salem, NJ 08079 LAWYER REFERRAL 856-935-5629 LEGAL SERVICES 856-451-0003

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court 465 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Rm 201 Newark, NJ 07102 LAWYÉR REFERRAL 973-622-6204 LEGAL SERVICES 973-624-4500

GLOUCESTER COUNTY:

Clerk Superior Court, Attn: Intake, 1st Floor 1 N. Broad St. Woodbury, NJ 08096 LAWYER REFERRAL 856-848-4589 LEGAL SERVICES 856-848-5360

HUDSON COUNTY:

Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Brennan Court House, 1st Floor 583 Newark Ave. Jersey City, NJ 07306 LAWYER REFERRAL 201-798-2727 LEGAL SERVICES 201-792-6363

HUNTERDON COUNTY: Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court Civil Division, 65 Park Ave. Flemington, NJ 08862 LAWYER REFERRAL 908-735-2611 LEGAL SERVICES 908-782-7979

MERCER COUNTY: Clerk Superior Court, Local Filing Office 175 South Broad St., P.O. Box 8068 Trenton, NJ 08650 LAWYER REFERRAL 609-585-6200 LEGAL SERVICES 609-695-6249

MIDDLESEX COUNTY:

56 Paterson St, P.O. Box 2633 New Brunswick, NJ 08903 LAWYER REFERRAL 732-828-0053 LEGAL SERVICES 732-249-7600

SOMERSET COUNTY:

Clerk Superior Court, Civil Division P.O. Box 3000 Somerville, NJ 08876 LAWYER REFERRAL 908-685-2323 LEGAL SERVICES 908-231-0840

SUSSEX COUNTY:

Clerk Superior Court, Judicial Center 43-47 High Street Newton, NJ 07860 LAWYER REFERRAL 973-267-5882 **LEGAL SERVICES 973-383-7400**

UNION COUNTY:

Clerk Superior Court, Court House 2 Broad Street, 1st Fl. Elizabeth, NJ 07207 LAWYER REFERRAL 908-353-4715 LEGAL SERVICES 908-354-4340

WARREN COUNTY:

Clerk Superior Court, Civil Division 413 Second Street Belvidere, NJ 07823-1500 LAWYER REFERRAL 973-267-5882 **LEGAL SERVICES 908-475-2010**

JOHN F. PILLES, JR., ESQ. Attorney I.D. No. 014801979 Lumberton Holly Office Center 774 Eayrestown Road, Suite Li Lumberton, New Jersey 08048 Telephone: (609) 267-7711 Telefacsimile: (609) 267-9303

Attorney for Plaintiff

2011 (2010) (201

BARBARA A. HARRIS,

Plaintiffs.

NovaCare Rehabilitation.

VS.

THE SELECT MEDICAL CORPORATION,
a Delaware Corporation; NOVACARE
REHABILITATION, a part of the Select Medical
Outpatient Division; KELLY KOVER, Regional Director;
and JOHN DOE and RICHARD ROE, currently
unknown representatives/agents for

Defendants.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

LAW DIVISION
BURLINGTON COUNTY

DOCKET NO. BUR-L-1836-17

CIVIL ACTION

VERIFIED COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

The plaintiff, as and for her complaint against the defendants above captioned, says:

PARTY IDENTIFICATION

- The plaintiff, Barbara A. Harris (hereinafter "Harris"), currently resides at 13 Stanwood Court in the Township of Medford, Burlington County, New Jersey.
- 2. The defendant, Select Medical Corporation (hereinafter "Select Medical"), is a corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws for the State of Delaware which principle executive offices are located at 4714 Gettysburg Road in the Borough of Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

- 3. The defendant, NovaCare Rehabilitation (hereinafter "NovaCare"), is a division of Select Medical operating speciality hospitals and outpatient rehabilitation clinics in thirty-seven (37) States and the District of Columbia, most notably including a center located at 1805 Route 206 in the Township of Southampton, Burlington County, New Jersey (hereinafter "Southampton Center").
- 4. The defendant, Kelly Kover (hereinafter "Kover"), is employed by defendants as Regional Director supervising sixteen (16) NovaCare clinics in the counties of Burlington, Camden and Mercer.
- 5. The inclusion within this litigation of defendants, John Doe and Richard Roe, reference those individuals presently unknown to the plaintiff, who advised, collaborated, contributed, participated and/or encouraged the wrongful actions taken against the plaintiff sought to be vindicated by this litigation; and these defendants are sued both/either in their personal capacity for conduct ultra vires their appointed positions and/or in their appointed capacity as actors functioning as agents of the corporate business.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 6. Harris commenced her employment with NovaCare in or about February 1992 as a Patient Service Specialist having previously been employed by Mark Butler's Physical Therapy Center which business was acquired by defendants with understanding that Harris would continue employment.
- 7. Harris underwent surgery circa October 24, 2016 for lumbar fusion and Laminectomy; and said plaintiff required absence from employment until January 2017.
- 8. Upon plaintiff's return to work in January 2017, she was assigned to work eleven (11) hours [from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a one (1) hour unpaid lunch period] on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; and she was required to work five (5) hours [from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00]

p.m.].

- 9. Upon the advise of her physician, Harris repeatedly requested handicapped accommodation for her spinal condition by reduction of daily work hours assignment; and this request was motivated since plaintiff's physician wanted to avoid Harris sitting in a chair for excessive hours.
 - 10. Kover declined to address, much less accommodate, plaintiff's handicapped condition.
- Upon information and belief, Harris was one of the highest paid Patient Service Specialists employed by NovaCare due to her work longevity; and at all times relevant herein. Harris' birth date is May 28, 1960 thereby making her fifty-seven (57) years old at all times relevant herein.
- 12. Harris reported late for work on Monday, June 12, 2017 due to adverse traffic conditions; and she arrived at the Southampton Center at approximately 8:10 a.m. after hastily parking her motor vehicle within its parking lot.
- 13. Kover was not present at the Southampton Center when Harris initially arrived, but he did eventually appear at the Southampton Center approximately two (2) hours later that same morning.
 - Kover thereupon terminated Harris for allegedly appearing for work intoxicated.
- 15. Kover contacted law enforcement supposedly to ensure that Harris returned safely to her home prompting a visit by Medford Township police officers to the Harris residence at which time the plaintiff was interviewed by same law enforcement officers.
- 16. Notwithstanding the fact that law enforcement was notified by Kover that Harris was terminated from employment for being intoxicated and operated her own motor vehicle to return home, the investigating police officers did not effectuate an arrest for violation of N.J.S.A. 39:4-50 presumably because Harris did not exhibit physical manifestations of alcohol intoxication.

FIRST COUNT

- 17. The plaintiff repeats each and every allegation set forth in the Party Identification and Factual Allegations incorporating herein by reference same Paragraph Nos. I though 16 as though fully set forth at length.
- 18. The defendants' conduct has violated both the Americans with Disabilities Act ("A.D.A."), 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq, and the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination ("L.A.D."), N.J.S.A. 10:5-1, et seq which require that, once an employer is advised or acquires understanding that an employee requires accommodation for a handicapped condition, the employer must engage in a good faith attempt to identify and implement such accommodations.
- 19. The defendants failed and refused to engage in such investigatory process maintaining, instead, that the hours of Harris' employment were immutable and non-flexible.
- 20. In addition to its failure to address, much less provide, handicapped accommodation, the defendants decided to terminate Harris, whose request for accommodations continued throughout the post surgery months, thereby prompting defendants to orchestrate a subterfuge baptizing its decision to terminate employment with legitimacy.
- 21. Harris alleges that her termination from employment by defendants effective June 12, 2017 was in retaliation for her continuing demands for handicapped accommodation.
- Harris has suffered legal damages incidental to both defendants' failure to provide, much less even address, plaintiff's need for handicapped accommodation and defendants' wrongful termination of Harris from employment under the despicable allegation that she had appeared for work on same date while impaired by alcohol intoxication.

SECOND COUNT

23. The plaintiff repeats each and every allegation set forth in the preceding Count

incorporating herein by reference same Paragraph Nos. 16 though 22 as though fully set forth at length.

- 24. The defendants are also liable to plaintiff for monetary damages and equitable relief premised on her allegation that the discharge from employment was motivated by age discrimination contra the L.A.D.
- 25. Upon information and belief, business at defendants' Southampton Center was in financial decline, and the pretext to discharge Harris for appearing impaired by alcohol provided defendants a most useful opportunity to remove, from its payroll, a highly paid employee.
- 26. The defendants are liable to the plaintiff for wrongful termination motivated by age discrimination contra the L.A.D., for which legal damages and equitable relief Harris seeks by this

THIRD COUNT

- 27. The plaintiff repeats each and every allegation set forth in the preceding Counts incorporating herein by reference same Paragraph Nos. 16 though 26 as though fully set forth at length.
- 28. The publication of cause warranting defendants' discharge of plaintiff will, most probably, be communicated to prospective employers and third party inquirers.
- 29. The plaintiff seeks judicial determination pursuant to the New Jersey Declaratory Judgment Act ("D.J.A."), N.J.S.A. 2A:16-50, et seq, that Harris did not appear for work on Monday, June 12, 2017 impaired by alcohol intoxication, which declaratory judgment would restore plaintiff's good employment name and facilitate her being able to obtain new employment.

FOURTH COUNT

30. The plaintiff repeats each and every allegation set forth in the preceding Counts incorporating herein by reference same Paragraph Nos. 16 through 29 as though fully set forth at

length.

The plaintiff is entitled, pursuant to both the L.A.D. and A.D.A., to recover reasonable attorney fees and incurred legal costs incidental to the prosecution of this litigation, for

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff demands judgment against the defendants for equitable relief which would include, but not be limited to, restoration of employment position with sufficient safeguards against future attempts of retaliatory termination; for recovery of damages which would include, but not be limited to, lost wages incurred and emotional distress endured; for recovery of reasonable attorney fees and incurred legal costs incidental to the prosecution of civil rights claims identified within this pleading; and for such further relief as may be deemed appropriate although not explicitly requested herenow.

RULE 4:5-1 CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to N.J. Court Rule 4:5-1, the undersigned hereby states that the within matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action pending in any Court or of a pending arbitration proceeding. To the best of plaintiff's belief, no other judicial actions or arbitration proceedings are contemplated. Further, other than the parties set forth in this pleading, the undersigned knows of no other party that should be joined in the above action. Finally, the undersigned recognizes the continuing obligation of each party to file and serve on all parties and the Court an amended certification if there is a change in the facts stated in this original certification.

JURY DEMAND

The plaintiff hereby demands a trial by a jury of twelve (12) persons on all issues as provided by N.J. Court Rule 1:8-1 as made specifically applicable to the Law Division pursuant to N.J. Court Rule 4:35-1.

DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL

Plaintiff hereby designates John F. Pilles, Jr., Esq. as trial counselm

RESERVATION OF CLAIMS

Plaintiff reserves the right to add any additional claims, counts or parties as same may become known during the course of this litigation.

Dated: 8/15/2017

John-E. Pilles, Jr. Attorney for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATION OF VERIFICATION

The undersigned plaintiff, identified in this pleading, hereby certifies in compliance with N.J.

Court Rules 1:4-4(b) and 1:4-7 that she has read the within complaint and that the allegations set forth therein are true to the best of her knowledge and belief. The undersigned further certifies that the foregoing statements made by her are true and she is aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by her are wilfully false, she is subject to punishment.

Dated: 8/15/2017

BARBARA A. HARRIS

Exhibit "B"

File No. 13672-0017

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Attorneys for Defendants, The Select Medical Corporation, Novacare Rehabilitation and Kelly Kover

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

BARBARA A. HARRIS,

CIVIL ACTION NO.

Plaintiff,

 \mathbf{v} .

THE SELECT MEDICAL CORPORATION; NOVACARE REHABILITATION; KELLY KOVER, JOHN DOE AND RICHARD DOE

Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF FILING OF REMOVAL

TO:

William T. Walsh Clerk of Court Mitchel H. Cohen Building & U.S. Courthouse 4th & Cooper Streets Room 1050 Camden, New Jersey 08101 John F. Pilles, Jr., Esquire Lumberton Holly Office Center 774 Eayrestown Road, Suite L1 Lumberton, New Jersey 08048 Attorney for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATION OF FILING AND SERVICE

I am employed by the law firm of Parker McCay P.A., Attorneys for Defendants, The Select Medical Corporation, Novacare Rehabilitation and Kelly Kover. The within Notice of removal was electronically filed with the Clerk of the United States District Court of New Jersey, located at Mitchell H Cohen Courthouse, 4th & Cooper Streets, Room 1050, Camden, New Jersey 08101, and I served the within documents, by regular & certified mail to:

John F. Pilles, Jr., Esquire Lumberton Holly Office Center 774 Eayrestown Road, Suite L1 Lumberton, NJ 08048 Attorney for Plaintiff

and by Electronic Filing to:

Clerk
Superior Court of New Jersey
1st Floor, Courts Facility
49 Rancocas Road
P.O. Box 6555
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060

PARKER McCAY P.A.

Attorneys for Defendants, The Select Medical Corporation, Novacare Rehabilitation and Kelly Kover

By: <u>s/Elizabeth M. Garcia</u> ELIZABETH M. GARCIA, ESQUIRE

Dated: October 23, 2017

LAW OFFICE PARKER McCAY P.A.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that this Notice of Filing is given pursuant to the provisions of 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> § 1441. Accompanying this Notice is a copy of the Notice of Removal so filed with the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, Camden Vicinage.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKER McCAY P.A.

Attorneys for Defendants, The Select Medical Corporation, Novacare Rehabilitation and Kelly Kover

By: <u>s/Elizabeth M. García</u> ELIZABETH M. GARCIA, ESQUIRE

Dated: October 23, 2017

LAW OFFICE PARKER McCAY P.A.